

SUMMARY OF OPA ORDERS ISSUED DURING WEEK ENDING AUGUST 14 AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

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An alternative pricing method, which will avert any further disturbance to the country's food distribution system, will be given to food wholesalers and retailers, probably by mid-September. This news was the feature of OPA action most interesting to the farmer during the past week.

FOOD DISTRIBUTORS

Price Administrator Leon Henderson issued advance disclosure of the prospective action, making general adjustments to supplant the previous method of handling food distributor cases needing relief on an individual basis in order to permit distributors to contract at once with food processors for their coming year's merchandise (OPA release 516).

However, no increase in distributor's prices - either at wholesale or retail - can be made until the new amendment to the General Maximum Price Regulation becomes effective.

Complete details will be announced following two field studies, now under way, which will play a large part in determining the exact mechanism of the pricing formula to be used. One field survey is being made by OPA accountants; the second by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The latter survey, which is quite intensive, covers 98 cost-of-living commodities in 56 cities.

CANNED VEGETABLES

Because many canned vegetable processors previously had to request information concerning competitors' prices in order to arrive at their own ceilings on certain canned vegetables in the 80-ounce No. 10 size cans, OPA set equitable differentials for these large-sized cans over the more generally used 16-ounce No. 2 size container (OPA-468).

All canners of standard quality No. 2 size tomatoes and peas now may continue to charge the trade the Department of Agriculture's support prices of 95 cents a dozen on tomatoes and \$1.10 a dozen on peas. This may be done even should such prices be higher than the canner's ceilings for these products as computed by the formula method under Maximum Price Regulation No. 152 (OPA-T-50). Thus, OPA reverts to its original position on standard-quality canned tomatoes and peas.

CANNED FRUITS

Under no circumstances will maximum prices of canned fruits and berries permitted under the OPA canned fruit regulation be altered, producers were warned (WPB-1674). War Production Board's Food Branch, interested in obtaining the maximum pack, concurred with OPA on grounds that unless prices for these raw

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products were held within limits of increases recognized by OPA, many canners and packers who already have Government contracts at ceiling would be forced to curtail production or suffer financial losses.

OPA issued a series of questions and answers for wholesalers of canned fruits, berries, and fruit juices, designed to help them operate under Maximum Price Regulation No. 197 (OPA-T-45).

FROZEN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Wholesale and retail distributors of frozen fruits and vegetables will be permitted to pass on to the ultimate consumer the same specific "dollars and cents" increases which they must pay to packers on their new crop products purchases (OPA-496). Official regulation permitting such increases may be issued within a week's time.

FATS AND OILS

A ceiling price of 4 cents a pound on waste kitchen fats now being sold by housewives to retail meat dealers in the fat-salvage program is established (OPA-420). Renderers may pay meat dealers 5 cents a pound for these same fats.

Ceiling prices of waste animal fat and oil bearing raw materials used by renderers in the making of inedible tallow and greases were rolled back to the seller's highest November 1941 level from March 1942.

COFFEE

Coffee roasters, holding old contracts at lower than OPA's maximum prices, were asked to void these contracts with importers voluntarily (OPA-487)

OPA set specific maximum prices for approximately 200 grades and types of green coffee (OPA-524).

MACHINERY

OPA has begun an inventory of every piece of second-hand machinery in the United States held for sale (OPA-498).

MEAT

U. S. Army Rations 1, 2, and 3 and certain other canned beef items are excepted from the General Maximum Price Regulation until January 1, 1942 (OPA-T-51). These rations are the meat components of U. S. Army Field Ration C, which previously was taken out of the General Maximum Price Regulation.

RATIONING

Rumors that OPA is going to ration certain specific commodities have arisen from that agency's plans to meet future emergencies with adequate ration machinery (OPA-483).

SUGAR

Seven western sugar processors are authorized to make sugar deliveries in the lower peninsula of Michigan in order to meet demands expected as a result of increased rationing allotments (OPA-495).

MILK

Effective date of OPA March ceilings for fluid milk and cream at wholesale - so far as such maximums apply to Washington, D. C., market - has been postponed from August 7 to October 2, 1942 (OPA-485).

Fluid milk sellers at wholesale and retail in Goodland, ~~Kans.~~ Front Royal, Va.; Selma, Ala.; and Ogden, Utah, were granted alternative price ceilings in order to maintain adequate milk supplies for fluid consumption in these areas (OPA-518).

LUMBER

OPA has granted increases on two grades of aircraft fir, vitally needed in the war effort, upon Lend-Lease and the British Purchasing Commission requests (OPA-526).

A detailed explanation has been issued of the proper invoicing sales method for lumber, where an average price is bid on a number of items of different specifications (OPA-T-43).

IRON AND STEEL SCRAP

A number of changes in the Iron and Steel Scrap Schedule are announced (OPA-T-39). There are designed to coordinate the operations of the schedule with scrap allocation by WPB.

GASOLINE

Motorists are warned to get their gasoline ration stickers on their cars immediately (OPA-532).

Plans have been worked out by the oil industry whereby wholesale distributors and retail dealers in gasoline and fuel oils along the Eastern Seaboard - initially supplied by members of the oil transportation pool - will be reimbursed for losses sustained because of the reductions in the prices of these products ordered into effect on August 5 (OPA-490).

Questions and Answers on gasoline rationing were issued (OPA-481).

Seven western New York counties were brought into the gasoline rationed area (OWI-279).

TIRES

Charlottesville Motors, Inc., Charlottesville, Va., will receive no further supplies of new, retreaded, or recapped tires or new tubes for one year as a result of an OPA suspension order (OPA-517).

AUTOMOBILES

Members of U. S. armed forces are eligible to purchase new passenger automobiles upon proof that a car is needed for transportation between residence and post of duty or on official military business where no military vehicle is available (OPA-500).

BICYCLES

On August 15 OPA will make a drastic reduction in the list of persons eligible to buy new bicycles (OPA-475). This will be done in a move to tailor the bicycle rationing program to a sharply decreased supply.

SHOES

Maximum prices that shoe repairmen may charge for rubber heels, attached to the shoe, are set (OPA-476).

RELIEF

Lorraine Fibre Mills, Inc., Brooklyn, N. Y., engaged in reconditioning and salvaging textile fibers and cloths was refused exemption from provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-512).

The Upchurch Packing Co., of Atlanta, Ga., which sold only "soft," peanut-fed dressed hogs, not generally quoted on major livestock markets during the base period of Maximum Price Regulation No. 148 (Dressed Hogs and Wholesale Pork Cuts) - and the Humphrey Supply Co., of Reno., Nev., whose smokehouse repairs during the base period also hampered its operations, were granted relief (OPA-530).

Zinsmaster Baking Co., of Minneapolis, Minn., may increase prices for Zwieback Toast in certain sales made to Don Farmer of Los Angeles, Calif., by 1 cent a pound. (OPA-T-36). This applies only to sales made to Mr. Farmer for resale to the Army Quartermaster Depot at San Bernardino, Calif.

Hercules Banana Corp., of Richmond Hills, N.Y., was granted permission to bring its ceiling prices for bananas up to the prices charged by competitors (OPA-469).

On assurance that stores affected would absorb higher delivery costs without any retail price increase, OPA authorized Stone Express, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., to raise by approximately 15 percent rates charged by its Retail Stores Delivery Division (OPA-479).

N. C. Demler Cider Mill, of North Tonawanda, N.Y., is granted permission to sell 1-gallon size at not higher than 16 cents a gallon. Demler's March ceiling was 11 cents (OPA-T-38).

United Grocery Co., of Irvington, N.J., is granted relief from ceiling prices on 40 various items -mostly foods - ranging from bottle caps to tinned California mackerel (OPA-486).

COTTON

Maximum prices are set for chemical grade cotton linters (OPA-418). This applies to sales by brokers or middlemen as well as by producers.

Jobbers, warehouses, cotton ginner, and all other resellers of cotton bale ties may use their prices charged on August 1, 1941, as their current maximum prices (OPA-494).

RENTS

OPA clarified factors constituting a "major capital improvement," one ground on which landlords may petition for increases in rents (OPA-509).

FUELS

Adjustment of the maximum price for bituminous coal shipped from Western Pennsylvania deep mines by truck to beehive coke ovens for conversion into metallurgical coke is announced (OPA-471).

OPA has ordered an upward revision of prices that certain high-cost Pennsylvania producers of beehive oven coke may charge to avert a threatened shortage (OPA-527).

Adjustment of maximum prices of run-of-mine and slack coal shipped by way of the Great Lakes from western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio to conform with the ceilings previously established for all-rail shipments of these coals was announced (OPA-T-40).

Specific maximum rates for trucks hauling coal from mines to beehive coke ovens in Fayette, Greene, and Westmoreland Counties, Pa., were set on a mileage basis (OPA-504).

Persons purchasing bituminous coal not in the course of trade or business but for home consumption are not required to keep records of such transactions (OPA-T-41).

Cost of transporting miscellaneous solid fuels delivered from producing facilities when moved on vehicles controlled and owned by the seller may not be added to the maximum delivered price, which already reflects transportation costs (OPA-488).

Copper Range Co. is authorized to charge not more than 30 cents per net ton in excess of ceiling prices for domestic fuel sold in Painesdale, Mich., an isolated copper mining community. This was done in order to prevent a serious shortage (OPA-514).

SERVICES

Revision of Federal price controls over service industries and trades - ranging from domestic laundering to stevedoring - is announced (OPA-520).

GENERAL MAXIMUM PRICE REGULATION

Specified war contracts for army field jackets entered into prior to July 27, 1942, are removed from the scope of all price regulations for reasons of military expediency (OPA-501).

Certification that prices charged conform to OPA regulations need not be accompanied by a sworn statement for every invoice (OPA-491).

Hotel and rooming-house operators filing petitions for adjustments in maximum rents must give notice to tenants within 24 hours of filing such petition (OPA-439).

Specific maximum prices have been set for a manufacturer who recently purchased a business and was unable to compute the maximum prices for its products because of the death of the former owner shortly after the business changed hands (OPA-492).

A special price ceiling has been set covering sales in the Virgin Islands of all price-controlled commodities imported (OPA-493). This was done to meet the problems created by war shipping hazards and high transportation costs.

Because pennies are not used as a medium of exchange in many Alaskan communities, OPA redefined "maximum price" as it applies to Alaska to mean the maximum price "adjusted to the nearest nickel" (OPA-503).